

Name: **Playa Lake WY-030-25N88W19-2012**

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No ☒ X ☐ Yes ☐ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: ☐ N/A ☐

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): ☐ N/A ☐

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): ☐ N/A ☐

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): ☐ N/A ☐

2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record: N/A

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Playa Lake WY-030-25N88W19-2012** Acreage 6,569.83

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒X_____ No _____

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the west by U.S. 287. The unit is bound on the north by a Class 5 4wd Road that has been previously graded. The unit is bound on the northeast by a Class 5 4wd Road that has been previously graded, a section of state land, and a pipeline. The unit is bound on the southeast by a previously graded Class 5 4WD Road and a pipeline. The unit is bound on the south and southwest by state and private land.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Playa Lake area under consideration is 6,569.83 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t24n	r88w	6	t25n	r88w	19
t24n	r89w	1	t25n	r89w	24
t25n	r88w	32	t25n	r89w	23
t25n	r88w	31	t25n	r88w	16
t25n	r89w	36	t25n	r88w	17
t25n	r88w	29	t25n	r88w	18
t25n	r88w	30	t25n	r89w	13
t25n	r89w	25	t25n	r89w	14
t25n	r88w	21	t25n	r88w	7
t25n	r88w	20	t25n	r89w	12

The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and drainages created by the Ferris Mountains and Boggy Meadows Rim. Elevation ranges from 7,000 feet on Boggy Meadows Rim above the drainages to, approximately, 6,500 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover is Mountain Big Sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is livestock grazing. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 26.91 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 5-6, 8-9, 11, and 13-14. When hiking across the Playa Lake Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains 21 oil and gas wells throughout the Playa Lake Unit (see example in Photo 9). When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, all of these wells were permanently abandoned between 1924 and 2000. These wells have been reclaimed and were not found to detract from the naturalness or to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer.

There is one poorly reclaimed pipeline within the unit that is substantially noticeable to the casual observer and was found to detract from naturalness.

The range improvements, including one water well that has a small wind tower and wind powered pump, 3.86 miles of fence, and a rusted water tank, were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Playa Lake Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Playa Lake WY-030-25N88W19-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

__X__ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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Team members:

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Date: _____